

## **Frederick County Ethics Commission Minutes for the Public Meeting of Monday, November 15, 2010**

Present: Andrew T. Jones, Chairman  
Karl W. Bickel, Commission Member  
Paula C. Bell, Commission Member  
E. Donald Foster, Alternate Commission Member  
Linda B. Thall, Senior Assistant County Attorney

The Frederick County Ethics Commission met at 8:20 p.m. on November 15, 2010, at the Office of the County Attorney on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of Winchester Hall, 12 East Church Street, Frederick, Maryland 21701. Prior to convening the public meeting, the Ethics Commission met to hold an administrative function meeting. At the administrative function meeting, the Ethics Commission obtained information regarding a request for an Advisory Opinion and discussed the application of the Ethics Ordinance to that request.

**Approval of the minutes** – The Commission considered the minutes from its August 19, 2009 meeting.

**MOTION:** Mr. Jones made a motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Bickel seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

**Discussion of Opinion 09-01** – The Commission reviewed Opinion 09-01 and asked that the Opinion be reissued and distributed to County officials and employees. The Commission did not change the Opinion's summary of the Ethics Ordinance.

**Update on training for DPDR inspectors** – The Senior Assistant County Attorney advised the Ethics Commission that inspectors in the Division of Permitting and Development Review participated in a training session on the Ethics Ordinance, with a focus on the Ordinance's conflict of interest provisions.

**Reappointment of Ms. Bell and Mr. Foster** – The Ethics Commission members were advised that in June 2010 the Board of County Commissioners reappointed Ms. Bell and Mr. Foster to serve on the Ethics Commission as a Commission member and alternate member, respectively.

**2009 Final Annual Report on the Public Ethics Law** – The 2009 Final Report on the Public Ethics Law, prepared by the County Manager's Office, was distributed to the members of the Ethics Commission in July 2010.

**Update on two requests for an investigation** – A County Commissioner asked the Ethics Commission to conduct investigations into allegations made against him. The first request for an investigation was based on a letter appearing in a local newspaper accusing the Commissioner of engaging in conduct that "verged on mail fraud." The second

request for an investigation was based on a statement that a briefing provided to County Commissioner candidates at the request of the Board of County Commissioners could be “construed as an ethical violation.” Responses to these requests were made in August 2010, advising the Commissioner that there was not a sufficient factual predicate for an investigation by the Ethics Commission, particularly in the absence of a formal complaint in either matter.

**2010 annual financial disclosure statements** – Copies of the financial disclosure statements were sent to the Ethics Commission members in October 2010. Mr. Foster advised that he had completed his review of the financial disclosure statements. The other members of the Commission stated that they would attempt to complete their reviews before the next meeting of the Ethics Commission.

**Date for future administrative function meeting** – In order to complete its work on a pending request for an Advisory Opinion, the Ethics Commission scheduled an administrative function meeting for Monday, November 22, 2010.

### **Adjournment**

**MOTION:** Mr. Bickel moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Foster seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

The Ethics Commission adjourned its meeting at 8:40 p.m.

/s/  
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Linda B. Thall, Senior Assistant County Attorney